

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:

Karen Larimore Wilkinson, PIO
Director of Public Information & Communications
City of Salisbury
City Hall, 217 South Main Street
Salisbury, North Carolina 28144
Work Phone: 704-638-2113
Cell Phone: 704-213-1050
Information: <http://www.salisburync.gov>
Work Email Contact: kwilk@salisburync.gov

City of Salisbury and Salisbury Housing Authority to Host Two-Day Design Workshop in Support of West End Transformation Plan

Salisbury, NC – October 6, 2011_The City of Salisbury and the Salisbury Housing Authority will host a two-day design workshop as part of the planning process for the West End Transformation Plan. The West End Design Charrette will be offered on Wednesday, October 19 and Thursday, October 20 at the West End Business & Community Center, 1400 West Bank Street. The purpose of the design charrette is to generate visual concepts and ideas of how the Civic Park and West End area may appear following the transformation. Funding for the charrette is part of a \$170,000 Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant received from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), earlier this year. The City of Salisbury and the Salisbury Housing Authority were co-applicants in the grant process and named as co-recipients. Residents and all citizens of Salisbury are invited to attend and actively participate.

Mayor Susan Kluttz, speaking on behalf of the Salisbury City Council said, “We encourage our citizens to attend this two-day workshop and share their creative ideas, insight, and vision as together, we work to promote long-term viability and revitalization in our West End Community. Our goal is to continuously foster and improve all areas throughout our city and we are sincerely grateful to have received the Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant. By improving and fostering an appreciation for Salisbury’s neighborhoods, we take strong steps in securing our city’s sense of pride and distinctiveness for future generations.”

Senior Planner Janet Gapen shares, “The design charrette will offer citizens the opportunity to view potential designs including replacement public housing, rehabilitation of existing buildings, a commercial center, parks, streets, and public amenities. The goal of the Choice Neighborhoods program is to transform neighborhoods of concentrated poverty into mixed-income neighborhoods by revitalizing distressed public housing and the surrounding neighborhood. The program promotes investments in well-functioning services and public assets, improved access to jobs and economic opportunities, and effective schools and educational programs for all ages.” Gapen notes that the tentative completion time for the transformation plan is 18 months. “Once the transformation plan is finalized, agencies will then apply for a Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grant of up to \$31 million and seek additional funding sources to carry out the plan.”

Salisbury Housing Authority Director Sam Foust said, "The Choice Neighborhood initiative is a unique opportunity for the entire city of Salisbury to pool our ideas, abilities, and resources to improve the quality of life and help fulfill the dreams of the residents of Civic Park and the West End. I am thrilled to see the excitement and hope that our Public Forum and planning meetings have generated. Together we can truly make a positive difference for current and future generations to come."

The schedule for the West End Design Charrette is as follows:

Wednesday, October 19, 2011

8:30 am – 10:30 am Introduction and Review of the Project

10:30 am – 11:30 am Public Comments and Open Discussion

Thursday, October 20, 2011

7 pm – 9 pm Public Presentation and Discussion

Following the project introduction, public comment, and discussion sessions on Wednesday morning, attending architects and designers will utilize Wednesday afternoon and evening to create conceptual plans and drawings. Design work will continue again on Thursday from 8:30 am until 5 pm. Citizens are cordially invited to drop-in and observe the creative process during these times. For more information regarding the West End Design Charrette, please contact City of Salisbury Senior Planner Janet Gapen at 704-638-5230.

The City of Salisbury is an equal opportunity employer with over 180 different job classifications and more than 400 full-time positions. For more information regarding the City of Salisbury and its services and departments, please visit us on the web at www.salisburync.gov. To receive updates regarding local initiatives, meetings, programs, and events, please join the City of Salisbury's Facebook users group at www.salisburync.gov/facebook or follow us on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/CitySalisburyNC>.

###